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January 29, 2016

Honorable Representative Caddy McKeown, Chair
House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Legislature 900 Court St., NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB4078

Dear Representative McKeown and Committee Members:

Over the last few years, the Rogue Valley Transportation District's Board of Directors has supported public transportation throughout the state. When the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce, Representative Post and others asked for our help on the legislative concept 0163 we were encouraged that the message of finding a stable and equitable source of state funding for urban and small rural transit systems was finally recognized.

HB4078 was crafted to match the funds our federal partners have obligated, but has a mechanism for complete accountability that assures the states' investment is spent wisely. This accountability is presently monitored by the Federal Transit Administration and the Oregon Department of Transportation through quarterly reporting and triennial review.

HB4078 is right for Oregonians

- It will lift up all medium and small transit systems statewide and boost economic development and livability for many Oregonians.
- In rural Oregon it will help communities move beyond elderly and disabled dial-a-rides and provide fixed route and commuter services.
- In small urban areas it will boost fixed route service and provide thousands of people in these communities the opportunity to jobs, education, healthcare, but most importantly it brings independence to many people who have no other options.
- For employers in Southern Oregon it would provide their workers stable, reliable transportation.
- For Rogue Community College and Southern Oregon University it will give students the opportunity to further their education. It will give many high school students the opportunity to attend the community college and university for accelerated classes while attending the six high schools in the area.
- For the healthcare facilities in our community it will provide additional frequency of service which is presently being served hourly. Better service will provide the Coordinated Care Organizations and the State reliable transportation for their members.

RVTD supports this bill as it gives all Legislators the ability to boost public transportation service to a level that brings value to our communities. This funding will support transportation plans across the state and gives a solid foundation to encourage communities to expand their systems with local support. We hope you will join us in supporting underserved communities with viable transit.

Sincerely,

Terry Bateman, Chair
Rogue Valley Transportation District